

## ParaPro Knowledge and Skill Areas

The following lists knowledge and skills tested on the ParaPro Assessment. This test is published by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Achieving a score of 461 or better on the ParaPro Assessment is one means (among others) of meeting qualifications to be an instructional teacher assistant in RI. For more information on

- State and federal requirements for teacher assistant qualifications, go to [www.ritap.org/ta](http://www.ritap.org/ta) and then the Legal Requirements webpage.
- The ParaPro Assessment and various resources to support teacher assistants in preparing for and taking this test, go to [www.ritap.org/ta](http://www.ritap.org/ta) and then the ParaPro webpage.

### **COMPONENT:** Reading knowledge

1. Identifying the main idea or primary purpose of a passage
2. Identifying supporting ideas
3. Identifying how a reading selection is organized
4. Determining the meanings of words or phrases in context
5. Drawing inferences or implications from directly state content
6. Determining whether information is presented as fact or opinion
7. Interpreting information from tables, diagrams, charts and graphs

### **COMPONENT:** Ability to assist in reading instruction

1. Sounding out words, e.g., long and short vowels, consonant sounds, rhymes
2. Breaking down words into parts, e.g., recognizing syllables, root words, prefixes, suffixes
3. Decoding words or phrases using context clues
4. Distinguishing between synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms
5. Alphabetizing words
6. Helping students use prereading strategies, such as skimming or making predictions
7. Asking questions about a reading selection to help students understand the selection
8. Making accurate observations about students' ability to understand and interpret text
9. Helping students use a dictionary
10. Interpreting written directions

### **COMPONENT:** Math knowledge

#### Arithmetic

1. How and when to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
2. How to order (order of operations) and compare whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
3. How to determine place value
4. How to use exponents
5. How to read and calculate percents
6. How to identify odd and even numbers
7. How to distinguish prime numbers and numbers that are divisible
8. Estimation

#### Algebra

1. Word problems
2. How to identify and use negative numbers
3. How to express and interpret relationships using variables, including formulas and simple equations

#### Geometry

1. How to identify basic geometric shapes, such as rectangles, cubes and special triangles (isosceles, equilateral, right)
2. How to locate points on a coordinate grid

#### Measurement

1. How to convert between units or measures in the same system
2. How to represent time and money
3. How to measure perimeters, areas, and volumes of common figures (triangles, circles, cubes, etc.)

#### Data Organization and Interpretation

1. How to interpret and create graphs, tables, and other visual displays of data
2. How to compute mean, median, and mode

**COMPONENT:** Ability to assist in math instruction

1. Math skills necessary for facilitating general school or classroom duties that a teacher assistant may encounter, such as scheduling time for class activities, organizing students into groups, managing classroom materials, etc.
2. Responding to word and number problems related to helping instruct students in specific, math related-tasks in the classroom: Identifying and/or correcting a preliminary step necessary for the student to take in order for him/her to solve a problem.
3. Responding to word and number problems related to helping instruct students in specific, math related tasks in the classroom: Identifying the correct solution to a problem that a student needs to solve.

**COMPONENT:** Writing Instruction

1. Identifying basic grammatical errors in standard written English
2. Identifying errors in word usage, e.g., their/they're/there, then/than, etc.
3. Identifying errors in punctuation
4. Identifying parts of speech, e.g., nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions
5. Identifying parts of a sentence, e.g., subject, verb or predicate
6. Identifying errors in spelling

**COMPONENT:** Ability to assist in writing instruction

1. Helping students use prewriting to generate and organize ideas including freewriting, brainstorming, mapping or clustering and using outlines
2. Helping students identify and use appropriate reference materials including newspapers, encyclopedias, magazines, general interest books, reference books, websites
3. Helping students draft and revise including composing or refining a thesis statement, writing focused and organized paragraphs, and writing a conclusion
4. Helping students edit written documents for clarity, grammar, sentence integrity (run-ons and sentence fragments), word usage, punctuation, and spelling
5. Helping students write for different purposes and audiences
6. Helping students recognize and write in different modes and forms, e.g., descriptive essays, persuasive essays, narratives, letters.